

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

and to compel citizens to buy the goods of the churches. The defiance of the interdict was solemnly carried out on October 18. The Madonna of the Immacolata was brought into Florence and carried in procession, with the head of St. Zanobius, to the Piazza della Signoria, where Mass was sung at an altar set up on a platform, and one of the Augustinian friars of Santo Spirito preached an impassioned sermon to the crowd from the ringhiera of the palace.¹

Gregory had, in fact, put himself into an impossible position. He had still further alienated the Sienese by imprisoning the ambassadors they had sent to him at Anagni. He had squandered the moneys of the Church upon the mercenaries, who were daily deserting his banners. We find him piteously writing to Queen Giovanna, on October 12, that, considering the great aid he has had from her, it is very grievous to him to burden her more, but Christ is his witness that he knows not to whom to have recourse save her.² On October 29, Bartolommeo di Smeduccio, with Count Lucio di Lando and Francesco da Matelica, utterly routed Rodolfo Varano, who had been reinforced by Bretons from the Pope, and pressed the pursuit up to the walls of Camerino. Several hundreds were killed, a thousand taken prisoners, and the captured banners brought in triumph to Florence and dragged through the streets.

Like other weak men in a similar position, Gregory seems to have vented his anger upon those who would not offer any resistance. Whatever those proposals were, "useful for the Church, if they had been understood," which Fra Raimondo brought with him from Catherine to the Pope, the latter would not accept them. He was exceedingly angry with Catherine, who, he apparently thought, ought to have gone to Florence or come to Rome, instead of labouring for souls in the Sienese contado, or, at least, to have done something that she had not done; and Raimondo, especially during the Pope's absence at Anagni, found himself looked upon with much suspicion and disfavour. ^{<c} Take

¹ *Ananimo Florentine*, pp. 339-341; *Cronichetta f Incerto*, pp. 212, 213, ^a Brief of October 12, 1377, Pastor, *Act* Intdita*, doc. 2.